GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2698
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
LUXURY TOURIST TRAINS IN KERALA AND OTHER STATES
Chandrappan Shri C.K.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent any proposal to start a luxury tourist train on the line of 'Palace on Wheels' in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government on the proposal;

(c) whether any proposal to start such luxury tourist trains in different States has also been received from respective State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government on their proposals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. However, a memorandum was received, on 18th June 2004, from the Government of Kerala for announcing a luxury tourist train (linking Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala) in the Union Railway Budget 2004-05. The State Governments viz. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have been advised on 2nd July 2004 to send a comprehensive proposal along with a feasibility study indicating the Rate of Return, Cost/Revenue sharing methodology etc. for consideration of the Railways. The replies from the concerned State Governments are awaited. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), however, has been signed, in December 2002, for running a luxury tourist train in Karnataka.